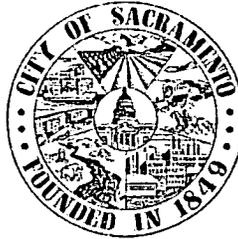


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APPROVED
BY THE CITY COUNCIL

JAN 4 1994

OFFICE OF THE
CITY CLERK

**DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS**

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

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SACRAMENTO, CA
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TRANSPORTATION DIVISION
PARKING

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December 15, 1993

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City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMNESTY PERIOD FOR THE VEHICLE IMMOBILIZATION
(BOOTING) PROGRAM**

LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT: City, All Districts

RECOMMENDATION:

This report recommends a one month parking citation amnesty period at the outset of the City's Vehicle Booting Program which begins February 1, 1994. Booting of vehicles will start on March 1, 1994.

CONTACT PERSON: J. Mark Morgan, Parking Administrator, 264-7475

FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF: January 4, 1994

SUMMARY:

This report recommends an amnesty period for the first month of the City's new Vehicle Booting Program. An amnesty period is offered because it gives registered owners an opportunity to pay outstanding parking citations prior to their vehicles being immobilized. Only owners with seven or more delinquent parking citations will be subject to booting. Booting of vehicles will begin March 1, 1994. The amnesty and booting program will be publicized to ensure community awareness.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION:

None.

PROPOSED AMNESTY PERIOD FOR THE VEHICLE
IMMOBILIZATION (BOOTING) PROGRAM
JANUARY 4, 1994

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

At the request of Council, staff surveyed other agencies to determine the success of parking citation amnesty programs. The implementation of the amnesty programs varied to include:

- flat rate for each delinquent parking citation
- payment for the original bail only, with late penalties and fees waived
- percentage of the total outstanding fines
- publicity for full payment prior to offenders names being listed in the local newspaper.

All agencies indicated revenue collected during the amnesty period generally did not meet projections. A summary of each agency's program is provided in Exhibit A.

Based on a comparison of the various amnesty programs and the end results, staff recommends a one month parking citation amnesty period be established prior to the outset of the City's Booting Program. The amnesty period will be from February 1, 1994 through February 28, 1994. During this period, vehicles found that are boot eligible will be issued warnings rather than being booted. Notices will also be mailed to motorists with boot eligible vehicles, advising them that their vehicles are subject to immobilization or impound. In addition, a public information program will advise residents of the amnesty period and the booting program.

The Amnesty and Booting Program is scheduled as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| January 15: | Publicize booting and amnesty program |
| January 15 - February 1: | Mail notice to owners of boot eligible vehicles |
| February 1 - February 28: | Amnesty Period-Identify vehicles and issue warning notices |
| March 1: | Begin actual booting of eligible vehicles. |

The goal of a Vehicle Immobilization (Booting) Program is to encourage compliance with parking ordinances and to capture delinquent parking citation fines. The booting program involves the placement of a clamping device on the wheel of a vehicle to immobilize it until all delinquent citations have been paid. Vehicles that remain booted after 72 hours will be impounded if the violator has not made arrangements to clear the outstanding parking citation. Only vehicles with seven or more outstanding parking citations are subject to booting.

**PROPOSED AMNESTY PERIOD FOR THE VEHICLE
IMMOBILIZATION (BOOTING) PROGRAM
JANUARY 4, 1994**

On October 20, 1992, Council approved the establishment of a vehicle immobilization program. This program was not implemented at the time because the program requires accurate identification of boot eligible vehicles. Due to the backlog of entering citation payments into the computer system, the County's ability to provide accurate reports to the level of reliability desired by the City was hindered. Staff believes the level of reliability identifying boot eligible vehicles will greatly improve once the City assumes the responsibility for processing parking citations as authorized by Assembly Bill 408

On October 19, 1993, Council authorized the City Manager to negotiate an agreement with the City of Inglewood for parking citation processing services. Under the proposed schedule, the City will begin processing and collection responsibilities for parking violations December 15, 1993.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

The amnesty program will cost approximately \$4,000 for the mailing of notices and for the printing of warnings. These funds are currently available in the FY 1993/94 On Street Parking General Fund Operating Budget.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

The intent of parking regulations is to increase parking turnover in order to facilitate business activity and to reduce parking congestion in residential neighborhoods. The goal of a vehicle immobilization program is to encourage compliance with parking regulations and increase collection rates for parking citations. Booting programs have been used successfully in other cities as an effective deterrent to the abuse of on-street parking regulations.

Because the penalties of the booting program can be severe, an amnesty period is offered to ensure the public has every opportunity to pay outstanding fines prior to the booting of vehicles.

PROPOSED AMNESTY PERIOD FOR THE VEHICLE
IMMOBILIZATION (BOOTING) PROGRAM
JANUARY 4, 1994

MBE/WBE:

Materials and services will be procured in accordance with the City's MBE/WBE policy.

Respectfully submitted,



MICHAEL KASHIWAGI
Deputy Director of Public Works

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:



WILLIAM H. EDGAR
City Manager

JG:eaj

APPROVED:



FOR JOHN E. MEDINA
Director of Public Works

RESOLUTION NO. *94-018 as amended*

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF _____

APPROVED
BY THE CITY COUNCIL
JAN 4 1994
OFFICE OF THE
CITY CLERK

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A
PARKING CITATION AMNESTY PROGRAM**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO:

That a Parking Citation Amnesty Program is hereby established for a one month period, whereby warning notices will be issued to registered owners of vehicles with seven or more delinquent unpaid parking citations advising that continued non-payment may result in vehicle immobilization.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY

RESOLUTION NO.: _____ **5**

DATE ADOPTED: _____

AMNESTY PROGRAMS

BOSTON

On March 15, 1984, the City of Boston began a 30 day parking citation amnesty program. Violations that were less than two years old were required to pay the full amount of the fine plus any late penalties. By paying overdue fines during the amnesty period, the motorist saved a \$10 fee added when the ticket was sent to the Registry of Motor Vehicles. On citations that were over two years old, only the original fine was due. Late penalties, ranging from \$5 to \$15 per ticket, were forgiven.

The City of Boston's parking amnesty program was modeled after a Department of Revenue effort that netted \$50 million in unpaid taxes the year before. The Boston City Council forecasted that as much as \$20 million would be collected and expected to collect \$6 million.

The amnesty program netted an additional \$2.15 million in citation revenue above the average monthly parking citation collections of \$1 million. About \$150,000 was spent to operate the program, mostly for overtime pay for workers, promotion, extra equipment and a toll-free telephone number to provide information.

SAN FRANCISCO

The City of San Francisco began a one month parking citation amnesty program in August of 1984 to try and collect some of the millions of dollars owed by motorists. The state tries to collect the money each year by tacking unpaid parking fees onto the vehicle registration costs. But chronic ticket-getters avoid paying those fees by simply not renewing their registrations. The City of San Francisco wanted to break that cycle by giving motorists a chance to pay their original fines without penalties.

San Francisco used a mail-in program whereby amnesty information was provided by mail. Amnesty inquiries were processed through a computer that determined the number of outstanding citations and how much was owed. Payment had to be made within 30 days. The person taking advantage of the amnesty program had an average of seven overdue parking tickets totalling about \$150 in fines and penalties. Under the amnesty program penalties were reduced by an average of about \$50 per person.

DENVER

The City of Denver offered a one-time amnesty for parking citations during the month of June 1985. During that 30 day period, motorists could clear old parking tickets for only \$6 each. The City had about 200,000 overdue parking citations. After the amnesty period, all parking fines increased 20 percent.

The month long amnesty program, a first for Denver, was aimed at heightening public awareness of the need to pay off parking fines and to help clear up the court's backlog of delinquent tickets. The program allowed people with overdue fines to pay them off in person or by mail at a flat rate of \$6 apiece. About 18 percent of the delinquent fines were cleared from the County Court's files.

CHICAGO

To help clear some of the estimated seven million parking citations representing over \$70 million in fines, the City of Chicago initiated a 30 day amnesty program in April of 1987. The city offered to settle delinquent parking citations for 50 percent of the original fines. The lure of saving money persuaded 137,000 people to sign up for amnesty. After receiving a letter of the amount due, violators had 14 days to pay. The program settled about 20% of the outstanding tickets.

After the amnesty period, the City of Chicago began a vehicle booting program.

PHILADELPHIA

The announcement of a possible parking citation amnesty program led motorists receiving parking violations to withhold paying those fines. The city experienced an eight percent drop in citation payments in the months before the amnesty program. Under the Philadelphia program, motorists paid only the original fine on delinquent parking citations. Late penalties were forgiven.

As a further incentive to participate in the amnesty program, the parking authority instituted tougher enforcement measures once the amnesty period ended. Those measures included:

- Reducing the number of citations before a vehicle can be booted from six to three.
- Expanding the booting area.
- Intensification of efforts to collect late penalties on all tickets.

MONTEREY

Before implementing a booting program, the City of Monterey publicized the program and allowed time for motorists with delinquent parking citations to pay their fines. The names of habitual parking violators with more than \$500 in delinquent parking fines were listed in the local newspaper. Today, the City of Monterey publishes monthly, in the local newspaper, a list of people who owe over \$500 in outstanding parking citations (approximately 95-100 names).